

**Secretary of Health and Human Resources'  
CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINE REVIEW PANEL  
730 East Broad Street – Management Services Unit  
Richmond, Virginia 23219**

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*Joseph S. Crane, Chairman  
Bill Brownfield, Staff Director*

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**Minutes  
March 21, 2002 Meeting**

The meeting of the 2001-2002 Secretary's Child Support Guideline Review Panel was held on March 21, 2002 at 9:00am at the Theater Row Building, Richmond, VA. Mr. Joseph Crane, Chairman, called the meeting to order and noted that Mr. Bill Brownfield, Staff Director, would serve the Panel as Secretary.

The following members were present for the meeting: Ms. Amy Atkinson; Ms. Cathy Burch; Ms. Ann Brakke Campfield; Mr. Maxie Cannon; Chairman Joseph Crane; Mr. Lawrence Diehl; Ms. Cynthia Ewing; Mr. Murray Steinberg; Ms. Stephanie Sulmer; and Judge Ellen White. Support staff present included Bill Brownfield, Bob Owen and Angela Thomas. Senator Quayle, Delegate Watts and Judge West were unable to attend.

Mr. Nathaniel L. Young, Jr., Deputy Commissioner and Director, Child Support Enforcement, addressed the Panel, thanking them for their services. Mr. Crane presented opening comments, including his plan for completing the agenda.

The Chair declared a quorum present, and noted that Panel member Nechama Masliansky had tendered her resignation, due to her move to the Washington, D.C. area. She had been one of three members representing the bar. He noted that the deadline for the Panel's report to the Secretary and the General Assembly is October 31, 2002, and noted that the draft report must be completed in early September in order for Panel review and comments, etc.

Mr. Crane noted the minutes of the September 25, 2001 meeting of the Panel had been distributed earlier via mail, and that additional copies were available. Ms. Ewing moved the minutes be approved as distributed. The motion was approved unanimously.

A general discussion of the prior evening's Public Hearing at the General Assembly Building followed, resulting in a number of additional discussion items to be added to the list of items approved at the September 25, 2001 meeting. In addition, issues from the written public comment period were identified and similarly added to the list, which is included as part of these minutes as attachment A.

The Chair confirmed to the Panel that responses would be provided to all persons submitting written comments.

Ms. Burch moved the Panel limit public hearings to the one held the previous night, and that the Panel authorize a second written public comment period through May 1, 2002. Notice of this second comment period will be sent to all persons on record of the Panel's "Interested Parties" list. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Panel then agreed upon the following schedule of meetings to begin at 9:00 a.m. in Richmond, exact site to be announced:

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Monday, July 1, 2002


Thursday, August 1, 2002

Mr. Diehl moved the Chairman be authorized to contact Mr. Mark Rogers of Georgia to possibly address Virginia's "income shares" child support schedule; arrange for a Virginia economist for a possible presentation on the current schedule and means of updating it based on current economic data; and that a Certified Public Accountant be secured to advise the Panel on the tax consequences related to child support awards. If possible, the Panel would hear these three presentations at its next meeting, May 23, 2002. The motion was unanimously approved.

Staff are to distribute copies of the Policy Studies, Inc. report of April, 1999 which explained more thoroughly the background and makeup of Virginia's child support guideline Schedule, as well as copies of the child support portion of the Code of Federal Regulations.

The Panel identified, both from its first meeting, the public hearing and today's meeting those issues it would consider in its deliberations. It was mutually agreed the list was not, necessarily, intended to be totally inclusive and, as the Panel deemed, items could be added.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Brownfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "B".

Bill Brownfield, Secretary

*Approved at the May 23, 2002 meeting of the Panel.*

## **ATTACHMENT A**

[Issues listed are in no particular order of priority]

1. Define child support. What should be included in the award? Need to be stated such that it is uniformly understood;
2. “Concrete” rules as to when child support can and cannot be awarded;
3. Review of the amount of the award. Is there really a need?;
4. A “disincentive” for attorneys who might limit visitation under 90 days, e.g. a policy statement;
5. One standard guideline with all deviations used by court and DCSE;
6. Custodial parent accountability of child support awards;
7. Review and possible adjustment of child support award according to age of dependent;
8. Tax consequences in the guideline;
9. §20-108.2 (First Mortgage concept versus second family/relationship children);
10. Minimum order (\$65) for “court-ordered” child support for unemployed NCP’s;
11. Review the three recommendations from the JLARC Report on The Cost of Raising Children;
12. Shared custody - policy statement;
13. Taxes - how to address benefits and consequences;
14. Maximum percent of income to order—a maximum percentage of income;
15. Base pay versus second job income;
16. Day care costs/federal child care credits;
17. Means of identifying the support, e.g. food, shelter, transportation, etc.;
18. Any changes in federal bankruptcy laws;
19. Schedule inclusions/parameters of the Schedule;
20. Half-day issues;
21. Emancipation issues [Shoup v Shoup?];
22. Gross income versus net;
23. Mandatory review for unemployed-imputation [Jackson letter];
24. Update guidelines to reflect the real cost of raising children [Walter’s letter and three following];
25. Require filing annual financial affidavit, to include “assets” in addition to “income”;
26. When ordered payment is not forthcoming, reasonable legal costs to collect support should be charged to obligor; and
27. When arrearages occur, some automatic penalty similar to mortgage or rent payment.